

## THE FISH COMMISSION.

**PRACTICAL RESULTS OF ITS WORK.**  
LARGE QUANTITIES OF FISH DISTRIBUTED—  
THE PROPAGATION OF CARP, SALMON,  
COD, OYSTERS, WHITEFISH AND CHARR.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26.—That branch of the work of the United States Fish Commission in which people in general take the greatest interest, mainly because it yields the most immediate and practical results, is that which comprises the propagation and distribution among the lakes, ponds and rivers of the country of valuable food fishes.

A FRANCIS correspondent obtained this week from Professor Spencer F. Baird, the distinguished head of the Fish Commission, some interesting facts in relation to that division of the work above mentioned. For his services as Commissioner, extending over a period of ten years, Professor Baird has not received one dollar from the public Treasury, and the office where he works seven or eight hours a day, and which contains the voluminous archives of the Commission, is a portion of his own residence, for which the Government pays no rent. Professor Baird exhibits a series of maps of the several States and Territories on a large scale. On each map was a number of triangular characters which show the places where the German carp has been sent to stock the ponds of individuals. The same maps show the number of fish sent to each place and also the places from which applications have been received, but not yet filled. The maps of every State and of several of the Territories are dotted more or less thickly with these characters, and show that the interest in the cultivation of the German carp is very valuable fish and is becoming widespread.

"No doubt," said Professor Baird, "there will be many more applications made for carp next year, but we shall be able to supply this reason all the applications have been received. In two or three years we will furnish many hundred new carp to stock the ponds of individuals from which an inexhaustible supply of young fish can be obtained to stock the ponds of every State."

From the product of 1300 German carp, imported three years ago, about 3,000 young have been stocked before the end of the present year with a sufficient number for breeding purposes. On Monday last young fish were sent to fill all applications from Delaware, Tennessee and South Carolina. The States remaining to be supplied are Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, and a car-load will soon be sent to each.

Professor Baird says that at three years of age the German carp will average four or five pounds in weight and again their prime.

## PROPAGATING SHAD.

The fish that has been most extensively and widely distributed by the Commission is the shad. Since the artificial propagation of this fish has begun 65,000,000 to 75,000,000 of the young have been distributed, and the number to be sent out the coming season will be three times as great as ever in any one year heretofore. The steamer Fish Hawk will spend the coming winter on the coast of Georgia, occupied in the hatching of young shad, and Professor Baird expects that next season the shipment of young fish of this variety to different localities will be made by the car-load. A car is now being built for this special service, and will be provided with every requisite for the safe transportation of the miniature fish. Other cars of the same sort will be built as necessity may demand.

Professor Baird says that the rivers of the Pacific coast have been so well stocked with shad through the efforts of the Commission that the work there may almost be regarded as finished. California has enacted stringent laws for the protection of her fisheries, and Professor Baird thinks that with the protection thus afforded the shad will be able to hold their own in the waters of that State. In the States east of the Rocky Mountains the shad have been placed in nearly every river in which they are expected to thrive. They are now regularly caught in the Ohio River at Louisville and other places; and are quite abundant in many streams where they were unknown until after the operations of the Commission had begun. Several rivers in which the shad had been nearly exterminated have been restocked, and the yearly catch is constantly increasing.

In the course of the present year an expedition of the Commission has visited every stream stocked with shad from the Alabama River to New England, in the spawning season, to study the habits of those fish, and to ascertain, if possible, the reasons why they are more abundant or less plentiful in different rivers.

Much effort has been devoted to the hatching and distribution of the eggs of salmon. In 1874 the first experiment to ascertain whether the salmon of the Pacific coast would thrive in Eastern waters was made, and in 1876 the success of the experiments was fully demonstrated. A salmon hatching station has been established on the McCloud River in California, and several millions of eggs have already been distributed in the Eastern States. When the Commission began the propagation and distribution of the Atlantic salmon, that fish was not taken in any quantities south of the Connecticut River. It is now found in considerable abundance in the Hudson, the Delaware, and the Susquehanna Rivers, and the success in stocking these streams is undoubted. There are hopes of extending its range still further south.

The hatching station of the Atlantic salmon is at Bucksport, Maine. The distribution of the eggs of this fish during the present season will amount to about 2,000,000. The hatching establishment of the land-locked salmon is on Grand Lake stream, Maine. Numerous small lakes throughout the Northern States have been stocked with this valuable fish, and the distribution is being continued yearly on a growing scale.

## HATCHING SALMON AND COD.

The process of incubation of salmon eggs is not completed at the hatching stations of the Commission, but when it has reached a certain stage of advancement the eggs are packed and sent to the places where the young fish are needed. The whole process of hatching the eggs of this fish occupies three or four months, while that of the eggs of shad covers only five or six days.

The experiments made in the artificial hatching of codfish at Gloucester, several years ago, were a complete success. Owing to certain unfavorable local conditions at Gloucester the work was not continued at that place. A station has now been established for the same purpose at Woods Hole, on Cape Ann, where preparations have been made for extensive operations during the coming winter. Many improvements have been made in the apparatus for hatching the codfish, and great results are confidently expected.

Professor Baird says that American fishermen take about 150,000,000 codfish each year. The average weight of these fish, at four years of age, is about ten pounds each. Nine million codfish have been taken from a single female fish that species, and Professor Baird says it is a poor fish indeed that does not yield 1,500,000 eggs. Even at that rate 100 female codfish alone will yield each year a quantity of eggs equal in number to the whole number of codfish taken.

Professor Baird, therefore, knows no reason why American waters may not be so abundantly stocked that our fishermen will not be obliged to seek this fish elsewhere. Canadian authorities have already turned their attention to this new American enterprise, and have begun to make inquiries with a view to engaging in the same work themselves.

The sea herring multiply with as great rapidity as the codfish and their artificial propagation is a work of very little difficulty. At Gloucester, Mass., many millions of this fish have been hatched and turned into the sea by the Commission.

Some experiments have been made, with fairly successful results, in the artificial propagation of the common mackerel. Although the work is somewhat more difficult and precarious than that of hatching codfish, Professor Baird is confident that it will be entirely practicable when once properly systematized. Experiments have also been made this year in the artificial propagation of the Spanish mackerel, the spawning grounds of which fish were discovered within a year at the entrance to Chesapeake Bay. While the experiments undertaken for the purpose of propagating the Spanish mackerel sufficiently demonstrated that this favorite food

fish can be propagated as easily and successfully as any other.

## EXPERIMENTING WITH THE OYSTER.

A very important series of experiments in the artificial propagation of the oyster is now in progress. These experiments have already determined one important fact, which may indeed be called a discovery. It has been found that artificial propagation of the oyster, as well as that of the other food fishes, can be made successful only if the parent oyster is taken from the same locality as the young oyster to be propagated. Major Ferguson, who is at the head of the Maryland Fish Commission, and also one of Professor Baird's assistants, is now having constructed a small boat on Chesapeake Bay. This boat will bear a general resemblance to those in France, but artificial propagation, which has not been tried in that country, will be resorted to.

The "oyster ship" is very lively. The extremely young oyster is described by Professor Baird as a capricious animal, as nimble as a shrimp and lively as a flea. Its activity is exceedingly great, and it is so quick that it can cling when it is once settled down for life. If this does not happen early in its career the young oyster perishes. Unusually temperamental, the oyster, when it is driven to the young oyster, is also a fruitful cause of infant mortality among oysters. To prevent these fatalities as far as possible, oyster parks are designed. A place on the bottom of the water, where the young oysters are so situated that the parks can be flooded to any required depth with sea-water, which can be drawn off when desired. The bottoms of these parks are covered with clem bricks, tiles, or other material, and the oysters are planted in and over them. The parent oysters are deposited, when the young oysters appear they are safe from the dangers of the sea, and they then cling, and they soon find resting places.

Professor Baird assumed THE TRIBUNE correspondent that in all probability a large part of the oysters of Chesapeake Bay will within a year be covered with shells, and some of the branches of the oyster fisheries have for some years attracted considerable attention, and more recently has caused grave alarm, especially in localities where the oyster industry is extensive. The quantity of oysters taken each year has not materially diminished, but the oyster-beds are being rapidly exhausted. Year by year the amount of capital and amount of labor employed in the oyster industry is decreasing. At the present rate the time when the native oyster will be practically exhausted, and the industry wholly destroyed, is not far distant, unless some artificial means to keep up the supply are adopted. Professor Baird is confident that the work begun under the auspices of the Fish Commission will lead to results which will save the oyster trade of the United States from ruin.

## WHITEFISH AND CALIFORNIA TROUT.

Two species of American fresh water fish have been included in the work of propagation thus far undertaken by the Commission. These are the whitefish of the Upper Lakes and the California trout. For several years there have been many indications that the whitefish were rapidly diminishing in numbers. Many favorite fishing grounds had been abandoned altogether, and at others only a few fish were taken where formerly the supply seemed inexhaustible. Even on the coast of California, where the whitefish was introduced, the supply was rapidly diminishing, and in some seasons was almost a failure. When affairs were in this condition, and it appeared that the whitefish was nearly exterminated, the Fish Commission was organized. The first step was to establish a station at Northville, Michigan, and began operations. The artificial propagation of the whitefish was begun, and the first year about 20,000,000 of the young have been placed in the water at that place.

Formerly immense numbers of whitefish were taken in Detroit River. Professor Baird has recently taken a dozen fish of the size of the California trout, and several of the size of the whitefish of the Upper Lakes, and these fish were taken in the same species, evidently one or two years old, were taken.

A general of the States bordering on the lakes have established Fish Commissions, and these, as well as the Canadian Fish Commission, have also paid considerable attention to the propagation of whitefish. The Fish Commission of the United States has limited period an abundant supply of these valuable fish will be secured and maintained.

Several years ago the attention of Professor Baird was attracted to the California trout, a valuable food fish. A hatching station for this fish was established on the McCloud River, in California, some distance from the salmon station before mentioned. Last year about 20,000,000 of the young of this fish were placed in the water at that place. Formerly immense numbers of whitefish were taken in Detroit River. Professor Baird has recently taken a dozen fish of the size of the California trout, and several of the size of the whitefish of the Upper Lakes, and these fish were taken in the same species, evidently one or two years old, were taken.

Under the German carp, the only foodfish which has thus far been introduced into this country from Europe by the Commission for the purpose of propagation is the fish known in England as the charr, a delicious food fish, and one of the most valuable of the rivers and will thrive in ponds and interior lakes. As they live on the bottoms of the ponds and lakes, they can be successfully introduced in the same waters with bass and other fish, which swim near the surface.

There is a great demand in Europe for the salmon of our Pacific coast, and the Fish Commission has sent many salmon eggs abroad and received the char in return.

A majority of the States have established Fish Commissions, and these, besides cooperating with the United States Commission, devote much attention to the propagation of whitefish, and their interior waters with different species of fish.

The United States Fish Commission confines its efforts to the public waters of the country, and to the propagation of the fish by the introduction of new work which individuals or States would be unlikely to undertake.

## OBITUARY.

## COMMANDER R. B. LOWRY.

Commodore Robert B. Lowry, on the active list of the United States Navy, was taken sick in the New York Club Rooms last Saturday night, and his illness became so serious that he was sent to the Navy Hospital, in Brooklyn, for treatment. He had been in failing health for the past three years, caused by diabetes and a general debility. He died at the Navy Hospital, in Brooklyn, on Sunday morning, November 22, 1880, at the age of 62 years.

Commodore Lowry was born at the United States Consulate, La Guayra, Venezuela, July 24, 1818. He was appointed cadet-midshipman from Pennsylvania January 21, 1840, and during the next three years was attached to the sloop Boston, in the East India Squadron, after which he was on special service on the Princeton for two years. On July 11, 1846, he was promoted to midshipman, while at the Naval Academy. He served during the Mexican War at Tampico, Texapa, Vera Cruz, Toluca, Seven Palms and Alvarado, and received a slight wound during the engagement at Texapa. He served afterward in the Mediterranean and East India Squadrons, and September 14, 1855, was promoted to lieutenant while attached to the frigate Powhatan. He returned from the Brazil Squadron in 1861, and was attached to the sloop Fawn, in Charleston Harbor, when Fort Sumter was fired upon. He was also at the first engagement on the Powhatan at Aquia Creek, and while in command of the steamer Albatross, he was sent to the coast of Mexico, and was at the capture of the sloop Albatross, and the capture of the sloop Albatross, and the capture of the sloop Albatross.

Secretary Welles the practicality of the Harpers expedition, and furnished a great deal of valuable information in reference to it to the Department, receiving the rank of commodore in the United States Navy. He was promoted to commodore in 1868, when he was ordered to the command of the sloop Albatross, and was at the capture of the sloop Albatross, and the capture of the sloop Albatross, and the capture of the sloop Albatross.

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The Republican candidate for Secretary of State, but was defeated by Dietrich Wills, Jr. (Dem.), by 9,211 plurality. From April 8, 1874, until January 1, 1876, Mr. Taylor held the office of Auditor of the Canal Department.

## THE COURTS.

## GIVING AN ACCOUNT OF HIS TRUST.

## HOW RAILWAY GRANTS WERE OBTAINED FROM THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT—THEIR DISPUTED OWNERSHIP.

## AN IMPORTANT MOTION IN A SUIT IN WHICH AARON L. REID AND OTHERS ARE PLAINTIFFS, AND THE TENANT RAILWAY COMPANY AND OTHERS ARE DEFENDANTS.

## THE TENANT RAILWAY COMPANY WAS INCORPORATED IN VERMONT BY A COMPANY ORGANIZED BY EMILIO LA LERE, UNDER A DECREE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MEXICO, GRANTING AUTHORITY TO THE COMPANY TO OPEN COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC OCEANS ACROSS THE Isthmus OF TEHUAQUE.

## IT WAS TO IMPROVE CERTAIN AREAS AND THEN CONNECT THEM BY A RAILROAD LINE.

## ACCORDING TO THE STATEMENT OF THE PLAINTIFFS' COUNSEL IN COURT YESTERDAY, THREE OF THE DEFENDANTS, MESSRS. LEARNED, HARBESK AND QUINCY, MADE AN ARRANGEMENT WITH THE PLAINTIFFS BY WHICH THESE THREE MEN SHOULD BECOME THE TRUSTEES OF THE TENANT RAILWAY COMPANY.

## THESE TRUSTEES WERE TO HOLD THE STOCK OF THE TENANT RAILWAY COMPANY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE SYNDICATE IN CERTAIN PROPORTIONS, THEY WERE TO OBTAIN ADDED POWERS AND FRANCHISES FROM THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT.

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